

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 161513Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3990

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, SO, UR
SUBJECT: SIAD MEETS GRECHKO

1. SUMMARY. SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD (STILL IN MOSCOW) MEETS
WITH MIN DEF GRECHKO. SOVIET PRESS REMAINS CAUTIOUS IN ITS
TREATMENT OF FRENCH POLICY IN THE FTAL. END SUMMARY.

2. KRASNAY ZVEZDA (MARCH 16) FRONT-PAGES AN ANNOUNCEMENT
(WITH PHOTO) THAT PRESIDENT SIAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET
MIN DEF GRECHKO IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING"
AND IN A "FRIENDLY AND COMRADELY ENVIRONMENT." THE BRIEF
REPORT ADDS THAT THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED VIEWS ON "IMPORTANT
INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, AS WELL AS ON QUESTIONS OF BILATERAL
RELATIONS."

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3. PRAVDA (MARCH 16) CARRIES A TASS REPORT FROM TUNIS

THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARQUES SAID THAT FRANCE INTENDED TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE FTAI AFTER "BROAD CONSULTATIONS" WITH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND A REFERENDUM ATTENDED BY "INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS." PRAVDA POINTS OUT THE STRATEGIC LOCATION OF THE FTAI, AS WELL AS THE STRENGTH OF THE FRENCH MILITARY BASE AT DJIBOUTI, AND CONCLUDES BY CITING A REPORT FROM DJIBOUTI THAT THE FRENCH RE ACTIVELY HINDERING LOCAL EFFORTS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. AN ACCOMPANYING TASS REPORT FROM MOGADISCIO STATES THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THE FRENCH ARE REINFORCING THEIR GARRISON AT DJIBOUTI WITH MARINE AND NAVAL FORCES. THE REPORT ADDS THAT IN FEBRUARY MOGADISCIO DIRECTED THE UN'S ATTENTION TO THE "EXPLOSIVE NATURE" OF THE FTAI SITUATION AND THE URGENT NEED FOR FTAI INDEPENDENCE.

4. COMMENT. SIAD'S PROLONGED STAY IN MOSCOW, AND HIS MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS, STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT HE IS LOBBYING HARD FOR ALL TYPES OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR HIS FTAI POSITION, BUT THAT HE MIGHT BE MEETING SOME RESISTANCE. THE MILD CRITICISM OF ALLEGED FRENCH INTRANSIGENCE IS BALANCED WITH THE POSITIVE TONE CONCERNING SAUVAGNARGUES' STATEMENT, AND INDICATES THE SOVIETS ARE STILL PROTECTING THEIR FRENCH FLANK ON THE FTAI ISSUE.
STOESSEL

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